

Balloons & Tunes bringing Mayhem to Kanab

By Neal Brown

While pushing her kids on a swing set on a sweet summer day, Nikki Ashton approached her friend Jami Taylor, who is formally educated in guitar performance about getting together sometime to make a little noise. Little did she know the far-fetched idea would be the birth of four moms hitting the road in a rock-n-roll band. When you can drum along with the likes of John Bonham, it's hard to keep that creative energy bottled up, and Nikki needed to get it out.

That play date at the park sparked the beginning of what would be a powerful music group with classically trained musicians, heaven sent on making a dent in Utah's music scene.

A fitting name and clever play on words, Mothers of Mayhem (MoM) will blow your socks off and leave them next to the pile of laundry that has yet to be put away. Playing guitar solos from some of the best that have ever done it, lead guitarist Jami Taylor covers Randy Rhodes, Jimmy Page, Slash, Kirk Hammett, and Tony Iommi, by adding her own unique style in bright red six inch high heels. Not an easy task, not that I've ever tried, but I'm sure Jimi Hendrix couldn't do it. If you recognize those names, you won't want to miss their shows next Friday and Saturday night at the Balloons and Tunes Festival. Even if you don't recognize those famous guitar names, come for an amazing show that will leave you with a smile on your face, and possibly even a desire to pick up an instrument to try your own hand at rock-n-roll.

Lead singer Jessica Groom was recruited for her bombastic vocal range and style, which clearly shows when they cover Led Zeppelin's vocal delight *Immigrant Song*. She'll catch your attention the way I dream Robert Plant may have back in the 70's. Groom, almost as

big of a Metallica fan as I, recently won the Metallica social media grand prize contest by the famed group in which the post received over 63,000 likes, providing a huge boost to the bands popularity and not to mention, catching the attention of one of the biggest rock bands of all time. There's a good chance you'll hear them pay tribute during their show.

Most mothers approaching mid-life are looking to remodel their kitchen, but bassist Victoria Green is remodeling her house to create a new rehearsal space with sound-proof walls. When it's finished, Nikki says, "now maybe my kids can finally get to bed before midnight." Victoria likes to play her bass loud, but like most bands, she has to fight for every little notch on the volume knob. Running the majority of the financial side of things for the band, you'd think she'd have more say on how loud her bass gets turned up, but no, sorry Victoria!

It's a balancing act with family and kids still at home that they take seriously between when to play, where to play, and what songs to play. With 19 kids between the foursome, lead guitarist, Jami said, "we keep our shows family friendly, so sometimes it limits the types of songs we can choose from in the rock/metal genre, but our husbands do a good job filtering and offering suggestions behind the scenes." She added, "because of everyone's busy schedule, we have to be choosy on what shows we play. We prefer a music festival type setting, and we always leave an open spot in our booking schedule to play Kanab. We love it there."

In between gigs, you'll still find them pushing their kids on the swing set, but now, a little over three years after the initial discussion that started it all, they're actually living their dreams, instead of just talking about them.



Mothers of Mayhem is one of the featured bands coming to Kanab next weekend for Balloons and Tunes. Look in next week's paper for more bands coming to Kanab.



Lead singer Jessica Groom (top left), lead guitarist Jami Taylor (top right), bassist Victoria Green (bottom left), drummer Nikki Ashton (bottom right) make up the band Mothers of Mayhem. They take the Balloons & Tunes stage on Friday, Feb. 19 at 6:45 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m.

Larriettes place second at State Drill Team competition

By Emily Koelliker

The Kanab High School Larriettes danced with great energy and heart at the State Drill Team Competition on Saturday, February 6 at the Sevier Valley Center in Richfield. Despite Covid-19 restrictions limiting spectators, the Larriettes had an energetic

crowd cheering them on and many supporters tuned in via the internet live stream.

In the two weeks between region and state, the dancers' routines improved immensely and by Saturday they were feeling ready to compete for a third state title. After very strong performances in each

category (Military, Dance and Show) it was time to wait for the judges' results.

The Larriettes were announced second place for both the Military and Dance categories. They unanimously received first place in the Show category from all five judges! Their show piece is a dynamic

and touching tribute to all the Armed Forces who have served or are currently serving our country. These three placements earned the drill team second place overall for the 2A state championship! Enterprise was awarded first place.

Captain Caroline Giddings made the 2A All-State Drill Team. The following is her description of the state competition: "This season has been anything but normal, and to be able to compete at all was a blessing itself. Our team has fought long and hard to get where we are today, and we wouldn't trade it for the world."

"Going up to state on Saturday had us all feeling emotional, prepared, nervous, but most importantly, we felt united. After each dance, we walked off with a feeling of peacefulness. We knew that no matter what was going to happen at awards we left everything out on the floor and had no regrets."

"After hearing our name called for second place, it was heartbreaking. I looked up and saw tears in the eyes of girls who have worked so many

hours to get to this point and said, 'I know that this isn't what we wanted, but no matter what, we did our best and that's all that matters.'

"Our coaches reminded us that three years ago when we placed first in our dance routine at state for the first time we were on cloud nine, so to be able to bring home a first and two seconds is amazing! This really opened my eyes to how grateful I am to be able to have competed and accomplished what we did, especially through such hard circumstances. I know none of this would've been possible without our coaches. They put in all of their time to make us the best versions of ourselves, and we could never thank them enough for that."

"We are also so grateful for all of the people that have supported us through this journey. It wouldn't be the same without our amazing fan club! This team is truly unbelievable and can work through anything. The journey of being a Larriette is an experience of a lifetime, and I will cherish it forever."



Senior Larriettes pose with their trophy (l-r): Alison Clarkson, Joelle Werlinger, Jocce Peatross, Caroline Giddings, Sadie Fox, Baylei Foster, Nabbie Willis, Madison Crofts, Alissa Chamberlain, Alyssa Stewart.

KANAB WEATHER

February			
Date	High	Low	Prec
3	63	33	.10
4	57	29	
5	56	19	
6	58	22	
7	62	18	
8	63	25	
9	59	32	

Courtesy:
Wayne & Stacy Grosz

INSIDE THE SUN THIS WEEK:



Retiring!
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New exercise
equipment at Jackson
Flat Reservoir
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VHS fundraiser for
Brinkerhoff family
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Faces of Kanab
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